

PRESS RELEASE

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# The Cleveland Museum of Art

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

## ART AND THE STAGE EXHIBITION SCHEDULED AT THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Theatre, dance, music and opera--the performing arts--are at their best through the collaborative efforts of artists and designers, stage directors, technical directors and crews, and accomplished performers. Art and the Stage, the educational exhibition opening May 22, 1981 at The Cleveland Museum of Art, examines the creative involvement of visual artists in the performing arts, both in this country and abroad, from the late nineteenth century through the early part of this century.

The exhibition consists of models of stage settings, set designs, costume headaddresses and costume studies, posters, paintings, and prints. Works are in a variety of media including pen and ink, pastel, ink on cardboard, color lithography, woodcut, etching, and oil on canvas. More than 20 artists are represented in this exhibition of 40 works which remains on view at the Museum through August 16, 1981.

Ellen Breitman, instructor in the Museum's art history and education department, assembled the exhibition in four sections--The Stage Designs, The Posters, The Players, and The Audience. She follows the development of productions in general from inception and early design phases through promotion and performance before an audience. In each section Ms. Breitman demonstrates the collaborative efforts and observations of the visual artist, focusing on examples by such well known designers as Adolphe Appia, Edward Gordon Craig, and Natalia Gontcharova; poster artists Alphonse Maria Mucha and Jules Chéret; and painters J.A.M. Whistler, Edgar Degas, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Georges Seurat, George Grosz, John Sloan, and Everett Shinn.

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Works in the exhibition are on loan from the Special Collections Department of the Northwestern University Library, The Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, the Allen Memorial Art Museum of Oberlin College, The Western Reserve Historical Society, the Theatre Arts Area at Cleveland State University, Mrs. Noah L. Butkin, Joseph M. Erdelac, and an anonymous local lender. In addition, works from the collections of The Cleveland Museum of Art are included.

A small illustrated Art and the Stage catalog written by Ms. Breitman for the Museum's Themes in Art Series of books about art, art history, and artistic expression is being published by The Cleveland Museum of Art with the cooperation of the Indiana University Press. The catalog will be available at the Museum Sales Desk for \$2.50 during the exhibition and \$4.00 afterwards.

Two free Art and the Stage gallery talks will be given in the exhibition by Ms. Breitman, one on Wednesday, May 27, and the other on Sunday, May 31. Both talks are presented at 1:30 p.m.

In addition, as part of the Museum's program of continuing education for adults, Ms. Breitman will present a four-part lecture series, Artists and the Stage World, meeting Wednesday afternoons at 2:15 p.m., beginning June 3. Based on the exhibition Art and the Stage, the series will examine the ways modern artists have approached the stage world, both as observers of performers and productions and as active designers of posters, costumes, and sets. The series gets underway on June 3 with the lecture Programs, Posters, and Celebrity Prints. It continues on June 10 with Artists in the Audience: Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Seurat, and The Eight. The lecture on June 17 is Art on Stage: Designs for Theatre, and on June 24 the series concludes with a gallery visit to the exhibition itself. The lecture series is free and open to all.

The films for May and June in the Museum's on-going art film series, In the Dark About Art: Films on Art and Artists, have also been selected to complement

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the Art and the Stage exhibition. Films in this series are free and open to all and are shown on Wednesdays at the Museum at 12:30 and 7:00 p.m. All films are in color unless otherwise noted. The schedule follows:

- May 6 - Light-Play: Black-White-Gray. Black and white. 6 minutes.  
The Concert. 12 minutes.
- May 13 - The Spirit of Dance. 21 minutes.
- May 20 - Adagio. 14 minutes.  
Variations on a Dance Theme. 13 minutes.
- May 27 - Art Nouveau. 28 minutes.
- June 3 - Degas Dancers. Black and white. 13 minutes.
- June 10 - Toulouse-Lautrec. 15 minutes.  
Lautrec. 7 minutes.
- June 17 - Seurat Drawings. Black and white. 17 minutes.
- June 24 - Drottningholm Court Theatre. 28 minutes.

Following its Cleveland Museum of Art showing, Art and the Stage will be on view at the Kenneth C. Beck Center for the Cultural Arts in Lakewood from September 16 through October 11, 1981.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.